

THE RELIGIOUS MUSEUM.

"DO GOOD IN THY GOOD PLEASURE UNTO ZION."—Ps. li. 18.

EDITED BY THE REV. ROBERT F. N. SMITH, OF NORTHUMBERLAND, (P.A.)

VOL. I.]

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1819.

[No. 27.]

EDUCATION SOCIETY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Transcript from the Records of the Society sent to the editor by Dr. Ely, Corresponding Sec'y.

At a meeting of a number of ministers and lay-members of the Presbyterian Church, held on the 9th of December, 1818, in the third Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia,

On motion, Robert Ralston, Esq. was called to the chair, and

The Rev. Mr. Biggs, was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

On motion, Resolved 1st. That it is expedient to establish a general society for the education of pious youth for the Gospel Ministry, in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, under the care of the General Assembly.

Resolved 2ndly. That Jacob J. Janeway, D. D. William Neill, D. D. James P. Wilson, D. D. Ashbel Green, D. D. Archibald Alexander, D. D. Samuel Miller, D. D. and the Rev. James Patterson, be a committee to prepare a draft of a constitution for the contemplated Society, to be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved 3dly. That the next meeting be held in the sixth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, on Thursday the 17th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Resolved 4thly. That the Rev. Dr. Neill, Robert Ralston, Esq. Mr. John W. Scott, and Mr. Daniel Jaudon, be a committee to publish and circulate copies of the above resolutions, together with an invitation to as many as they may deem proper, to attend the next meeting.

Concluded with prayer.

A circular containing an account of these proceedings and the contemplated invitation, was extensively distributed.

Philadelphia, Dec. 17, 1818.

At an adjourned meeting of a number of ministers, and other members of the Presbyterian Church, held in Philadelphia, in the sixth Presbyterian Church of this city, on the 17th day of December A. D. 1818, Robert Ralston, Esq. was called to the chair, and the Rev. Thomas J. Biggs, was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. of Princeton. The minutes of the former meeting were read: after which,

The committee appointed to prepare the draft of a constitution for "a General Society for the education of pious youth for the gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church in the U. States, under the care of the General Assembly," made a report; which having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This Society shall be called "The Ed-

ucation Society of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, under the care of the General Assembly."

Art. 2. The object of this society, shall be to furnish pious and indigent youth of the Presbyterian denomination, who have the gospel ministry in view, with the means of pursuing their Academical and Theological studies.

Art. 3. Any person paying two dollars, on subscribing this constitution, and two dollars annually, thereafter, shall be and continue a member of this Society: and any person paying twenty dollars at any one time shall be a member for life.

Art. 4. The officers of this society, shall be a President, to preside and keep order at the meetings, and to call special meetings; seven Vice-Presidents, to take the place, and perform the duties of the President in his absence; a Secretary, to record the proceedings, and keep the books and papers of the Society: a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, to receive and hold the funds of the society and keep its accounts.

Art. 5. There shall be twenty-four other persons appointed, one half ministers, and one half lay-members, who, together with the officers mentioned in the preceding article, shall constitute a board of managers.

Art. 6. The officers and other managers, shall be elected by ballot, at the first meeting of the society; and at each annual meeting thereafter, one fourth part of the whole board, shall go out in alphabetical order, and a new election be held by ballot to supply their places; it being understood, that the said fourth part shall be re-eligible at the pleasure of the society.

Art. 7. The board of managers shall conduct the business of the society; shall devise and execute measures for obtaining funds; shall select young men to be the objects of their bounty, direct their studies, and provide for their support; shall take measures to organize auxiliary societies, and empower them to select and educate young men; and shall make a report of all their proceedings to the society at every annual meeting. After due notice, seven members of the board shall constitute a quorum, provided three of the number be ministers of the gospel.

Art. 8. It shall be the duty of the board of managers every year, to communicate to the General Assembly for their information, a copy of the report required by the last article, as soon as possible, after it shall have been laid before the society.

Art. 9. It shall be the privilege of any Presbyterian Church in the United States, which may wish to co-operate with this society, to erect itself into an Auxiliary Society, for selecting and educating young men; or any Presbytery may form a committee of its members to act in this behalf, which committee shall have

all the rights and privileges of an Auxiliary Society consisting of the Presbytery itself.

Art. 10. It shall be the duty of every Auxiliary Society, to take effectual measures for collecting funds within their own bounds; to employ the same in support of such youth as they may select; and to report to the board of managers, at least once every year, the number of young men under their care, and the amount of funds collected for their support. And the board of managers, shall at their discretion, grant additional aid to Auxiliary Societies, when practicable and needed, out of the general fund, paying due regard to their respective exertions, and the number of young men under their care.

Art. 11. When any Auxiliary Society, shall have surplus funds, they shall be paid into the general fund: and it shall be the duty of every Auxiliary Society to exert themselves as much as possible to augment the general fund.

Art. 12. The Presidents of Auxiliary Societies, when present, shall be entitled to sit and deliberate with the board of managers.

Art. 13. The annual meetings of the society shall be always held in the city of Philadelphia, on the Tuesday next after the commencement of the annual sessions of each General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, at such time and place as the board of managers may direct; twenty of whom shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. At each annual meeting there shall be a sermon preached, and a collection taken up for the benefit of the society: the preacher every year to be appointed by the board of managers.

Art. 14. Special meetings of the society may be at any time called by the President, or, in case of his absence, by any one of the Vice-Presidents, on request of any three members in writing.

Art. 15. It is to be regarded as a fundamental principle of this society, that no young man shall, in any case, be selected for education, who does not possess good natural talents, and hopeful piety; who is not in the communion of the Presbyterian Church; and who does not express it to be his intention to enter the ministry in said church; and in case any young man who may receive the pecuniary aid of this society shall, by his own fault, fail of entering the gospel ministry, he shall, when able, refund to the board of managers, the whole amount of expense incurred by them in his education, if called upon for that purpose.

Art. 16. Alterations may at any time be made in this constitution at an annual meeting of the society, provided three fourths of the members present concur in a vote for that purpose.

Having adopted the foregoing constitution, the meeting proceeded to an election by ballot, of officers and managers; when it appeared that

the following persons were duly chosen to the offices prefixed to their names.

PRESIDENT.

ROBERT RALSTON, Esq.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. L. L. D. Elias B. Caldwell, Esq. The Rev. John Woodhull, D. D. Elias Boudinot, L. L. D. The Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D. The Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. The Rev. William Neill, D. D.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Rev. Thomas H. Skinner.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D.

TREASURER.

John Stille, Esquire.

MANAGERS.

Rev. Jacob Janeway, D. D. Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D. Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D. Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D. Rev. George C. Potts. Rev. James Patterson. Rev. John E. Latta. Rev. Samuel Blanchard How. Rev. James K. Burch. Rev. George Chandler. Rev. E. W. Gilbert. Rev. Thomas J. Biggs. John Neilson, Esq. Alexander Henry, Esq. John Connelly, Esq. William Kirkpatrick, Esq. Divie Bethune, Esq. Mr. Joseph Montgomery. Mr. John M. Mullin. James Stuart, Esq. Jacob Mitchell, Esq. Mr. James Kerr. Mr. William Nassau. Mr. Branch Green.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary be, and he hereby is, directed to procure the publication of 1000 copies of the constitution, together with the proceedings of this society; and to send a copy of the same to each presbytery as soon as practicable.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Secretary of this meeting be directed to inform distant members of the board of their appointments, and also to give notice to the officers and managers, that a meeting of the board will be held on Monday, the 21st instant, at 3 o'clock P. M. in the session room of the second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia.

The meeting then resolved to adjourn, and concluded the session with prayer.

ROBERT RALSTON, Chairman.

THOMAS J. BIGGS, Secretary.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CENTRE COUNTY.

Agreeably to public notice given by the committee appointed for that purpose, on the 11th day of May last, a number of persons from different parts of Centre county, met this 3d day of November, 1818, at the court house in Bellefonte, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of forming and organizing a County Bible Society.

The Rev. WM. STEWART, was chosen Moderator, and

JOHN G. LOWREY, appointed clerk; when on motion of the Rev. James Linn, and J. G. Lowrey,

Resolved unanimously, as the sense of this meeting, that a Bible Society be now formed and organized, to be called "the Bible Society of Centre county, auxiliary to the Bible Society of Philadelphia," to be composed of the persons now present, together with those who have sent their names for that purpose, and as many others of all denominations of professing christians, as may choose to join.

The constitution sent up by the Philadelphia Bible Society was laid before the meeting and read; and on motion of the Rev. James Linn and Wm. Petrikin,

Resolved, That this meeting do now proceed to the consideration thereof, and the said constitution being considered, each article separately, and being amended, was agreed to, as follows:

CONSTITUTION

Of the Auxiliary Bible Society of Centre County.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be styled the "Bible Society of the county of Centre," auxiliary to the Bible Society of Philadelphia.

2. The object of this society shall be to distribute the sacred scriptures without note or comment, in the county of Centre, and to aid the Bible Society of Philadelphia, with its surplus funds.

3. Every person who shall subscribe not less than one sixteenth of a dollar per month shall be a member of this society, and any person who shall subscribe and pay at one time not less than ten dollars, shall be a member for life.

4. The business of the society shall be conducted by a president, two vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, and fifteen managers five of whom shall be a quorum, to transact all business. They shall meet at least once in three months, make laws for their own government, and fill such vacancies as may occur in their own board.

5. The annual meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday of April in each year, when the officers and managers shall be appointed, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the year reported.

6. If an election shall not take place at the appointed time, the officers in place shall continue to act.

7. Any member shall have a right to withdraw from the society at any annual meeting, on giving one month's previous notice thereof to the treasurer, and complying with his pecuniary engagements.

8. This constitution, or any part thereof, may be altered, provided such alteration shall be proposed by at least ten members, and laid before the board of managers in writing, at any quarterly meeting, and in such case it shall be the duty of the board to publish the same for consideration of the members, and if agreed to by a majority of the members convened at the (then) next annual meeting of the society, it shall form a part of this constitution.

Resolved, on motion of James Harris and Joseph Miles, that this society now proceed to the choice and appointment of officers and managers—and the following were duly chosen, to wit:

President—Andrew Gregg, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—Rev. Wm. Stewart, and Rev. Wm. Ilgan.

Treasurer—John Norris, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary—Rev. James Linn.

Recording Secretary—John G. Lowrey.

Managers—Rev. Mr. Rossman, William Fisher, William Petrikin, Joseph Gilliland, John Rankin, James Duncan, James Crawford, Francis M'Ewen, John Patton, George Williams, John Henney, Joseph Miles, John Shafer, Matthew Allison, Thomas Moore and William Alexander, senior.

On motion Wm. Petrikin, Joseph Miles and John G. Lowrey, were appointed a committee

to prepare an address to the public and have the same printed and published.

Agreed by the officers and managers present, that the board of managers will meet at the office of William Petrikin, Esq. in Bellefonte, on Tuesday the 17th inst.—Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday Nov. 17, 1818.—The board of managers met, agreeably to appointment, (nine members present) and

Resolved, That each officer and manager be furnished with a copy of the constitution; and they are authorized and directed to solicit and procure subscribers and members to the society, and they are further authorized to receive from the members, such parts or portions of the sums of money by them respectively subscribed, as they may be willing to pay at the time; and to pay the same over to the treasurer.—Concluded with prayer.

RUSSIA.

Extracts from the correspondence of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

From the Rev. Robert Pinkerton.

Pleskoff, May 30, 1818.

On the 25th instant I left St. Petersburg, and commenced my journey into White Russia, by directing my course towards Gatschina, the beautiful summer residence of the late emperor. Before separating from my dear family and friends, I had the satisfaction of seeing our beloved president, just returned from Moscow, who gave us the most favorable account of the proceedings of the society in that city. The prince has also, as on former occasions, furnished me with a number of letters of recommendation, in the name of the committee, which I hope will powerfully tend to promote the benevolent work in which I am engaged, particularly in those parts of White Russia and Lithuania which I have never visited before. Continuing my course from Gatschina through Luga, and Borovitch; I found myself, early in the morning of the 27th, approaching the once strong and massive, but now fast mouldering, walls and towers of the ancient capital of the principality of Plescovia. This city, like her sister Novogorod, though still retaining numerous monuments of former greatness and opulence, is, in general, in a ruined state. The number of its inhabitants is still reckoned about ten thousand.

I met with a very kind reception from the Archbishop, (residing in a monastery about five versts out of town, beautifully situated on the banks of the Velikia,) who in union with his excellency the governor, since my last visit to this place in 1816, has succeeded in forming a Bible Society for this province, which contains a population of upwards of 650,000 souls. This took place on the 12th of March, 1817, and the progress of the institution, during the first year of its existence, has far surpassed their fondest expectations.—The number of annual subscribers is 211, and of benefactors, 1117, among whom there are many of the poorest of the peasantry, who, on being made acquainted with the simple and sacred object of this society, willingly came forward with their kopeks to aid its funds. The subscriptions and kopek collections made among the peasantry, during the first year, amount to near 13,000 rubles. The demand for the Holy Scriptures has been great. The Archbishop informed me, that in his di-

ocese, which consists of 450 churches, the greater part of the clergy are still without a Bible! Through the continued exertions of the society, however, with this learned Prelate at its head, there is good reason to hope that this lamentable scarcity of God's word, not only among the clergy, but also among numbers of the laity who are able to read it, will be removed.

FROM THE SAME.

Witepsk, June 5, 1818.

On my arrival in Potolsk I met with a very kind reception from his royal highness the Duke, who inquired particularly respecting the prosperity of the Bible Society in different quarters of the world, and expressed his great satisfaction at its continued success in every province of the Russian empire. On the 4th instant we had a full meeting of the members of committee, in which several new arrangements respecting the distribution of the sacred writings were proposed and adopted; which, it is hoped, will produce good effects.

The income of the society, during the first year, is 4538 rubles. Since receiving the Bibles and Testaments from St. Petersburg, upwards of 300 copies have been sold and circulated. They have opened a sale for the Holy Scriptures in the chief market place, and have sent numbers of copies into the district towns of the province for sale and distribution.

This society has two associations, one in Velege, and the other in Potolsk. Both in Pleskoff and in this city I have visited the prisons and hospitals, and distributed the sacred volume among the afflicted and unfortunate. The number of Jews in this city is great; they compose upwards of one half of the inhabitants who are reckoned at 12,000. One of the directors of the committee, General Tschorba, is very zealous in circulating the Hebrew Testament among them.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Sunbury German Sabbath School.

Extract from the minutes of the Institute.

"On the first day of January 1819 this institution had their quarterly meeting for the first time, in the presence of the Lutheran congregation. After the pastor of the congregation and president of the institute had delivered a discourse on the occasion, the constitution was read by the secretary, and the scholars were examined. And we announce to the public with pleasure the progress they have made. Many who did not know the alphabet at the commencement of the school, we find reading, and many have committed to memory a number of questions on religion and learnt the first part of the Catechism. We find the children zealous, and expect if they continue many good fruits of this institute.

The number of scholars is about 60, of whom the greater part are boys."

WILLIAMSPORT SABBATH SCHOOL.

We rejoice to be able to announce the organization of a Sabbath School in Williamsport. A number of ladies have commenced this labour of love. We trust they will not be weary in well doing.

OWEGO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Communicated for the Museum.

Report of the Inspectors.

The inspectors of "The Owego Sunday School Institution," beg leave to inform the patrons of the school in particular, as well as the congregation in general that the present Sabbath, being the thirteenth from its commencement, closes the first quarter:—on which occasion, it may not be improper to give a brief sketch of the manner in which it has been managed, and the number of scholars that have attended, and the progress they have made.

The first step taken by the inspectors was the appointment of twelve teachers (an equal number of male and female,) all of whom promptly accepted and entered upon the duties with a commendable zeal and cheerfulness; and have continued through the quarter, with very few exceptions, to be punctual in their attendance, and diligent in their calling. For all which, the inspectors render them their sincere thanks; trusting they will find a higher reward in the approbation of a good conscience in this labor of love; and esteem it rather a privilege than a task, that a door is thus opened by a kind providence, for them to contribute their mite in the great work of instructing souls in the way of salvation. And we cannot but hope, that the prospect of their labors being owned and blessed by Him, who took up little children in his arms and blessed them, will induce them to continue their services another quarter: cheerfully making any reasonable sacrifice, in order to be at the post of duty, emulous of doing good, of being the humble instruments of improving the moral and religious habits of the rising generation. The inspectors would express their gratification, that this institution (entirely a novel one in this place) has been so generally patronized by parents, and so punctually attended to by the children of this village; and are particularly pleased to witness the steady attendance of a sufficient number to form a respectable class that came a distance of from one to one and a half miles.

Exceptions to punctuality and perseverance, we have indeed experienced, which being but the common result, in all undertakings however laudable, do not in the least demolish our zeal, or darken our prospects. It must be by a patient continuance in well doing, that any important object can be attained.

About 25 scholars have entered, whose names do not of late appear as attendants in the school;—besides which, we number about seventy, a majority of whom, are worthy of commendation for punctual attendance and orderly behaviour. The average number that have actually attended through the quarter has been sixty one.—Between forty and fifty, might be justly considered as belonging to Bible classes, for they have been in the constant practice of committing and reciting portions of scriptures, besides going through with one or more catechisms and repeating a great number of divine songs and hymns. The young and more backward scholars, have been instructed in reading and in committing the commandments, Creed, Lord's prayer, and portions of catechisms.

Such is the favored state of society, and such the advantage we have enjoyed of early instruction, that there are but very few of the whole number of scholars who cannot read intelligibly in the New Testament.

Although "great effects arise from little causes" yet they are not to be looked for in a little time. Intuitive knowledge or miraculous attainments, are not to be expected, in this age of the world. It is only by "line upon line, and precept upon precept," that the mind can be stored with human knowledge, or the heart be endued with heavenly wisdom, and make progress in the divine life.

Enough has been done, during a single quarter, to answer the expectations of the most sanguine, and remove the doubts and fears that some entertained of its utility, or success.

It will not be expected, that the proficiency each scholar has made, can here be given in detail. We cannot however forbear stating that as many as seven have committed and recited the book of Mathew, containing more than one thousand verses, besides their other studies; and one of the number has gone through the whole of Mark, and Luke, and made some progress in the gospel of John. No less than twelve scholars have repeatedly recited between one and two hundred verses on a Sabbath, and one female scholar in particular, for the greatest part of the quarter, has recited from two to three hundred, and on three Sabbaths rising four hundred verses each day.

One adult in the class of coloured females has gone through the book of Matthew, and several chapters of Mark—and for the three last Sabbaths, her recitations have averaged two hundred and forty verses.

It may not be here improper to mention that each teacher has been furnished with a class book, in which are recorded the number attending each school; and the recitation of each scholar in particular. From these books an abstract has been carefully taken each week; and from a summary view of the whole, it appears that the average recitation of the whole school, each Sabbath, has been about six hundred questions and answers in catechisms; three hundred verses in divine songs; and seventeen hundred verses of scripture.—And that the aggregate for the whole quarter has been between seven and eight thousand answers in catechisms; between three and four thousand verses in divine songs and rising twenty one thousand verses of scripture. The inspectors conceive they have judiciously applied the small fund contributed by the members of this institution in purchasing a variety of books at the Sunday School Repository, in New York, which has enabled them to put a book in the hands of every scholar, to read, or to commit during the week, and to exchange for others, as soon as deemed expedient by their teacher. The inspectors have several books yet in reserve, to be awarded next Sabbath as premiums to such as have been punctual in their attendance, or diligent in their studies; and would be glad if their funds would enable them to do more, as a reward to merit, or stimulus to further exertion. If it be asked of what use it can be to children, thus hastily to commit and recite the scriptures when perhaps the greater part scarcely notice the instruction it contains, or but slightly comprehend the meaning; and which may shortly be in a great measure erased from their memories?—We reply, that a similar objection may be brought against almost every means of grace, in this our favoured land. What is said of a preached gospel, may be applied in the present case, "Paul may plant, and Apollus water, but God only giveth the increase."

We are possessed of the most authentic evidence of the happy effects resulting from Sun-

day Schools; not only in a moral but a religious point of view, in respect of teachers and pupils. Many churches have added to their number from the nurseries of piety. Thus it still proves to be a true and faithful saying, that many things are hid from the wise and the prudent, and revealed unto babes—and who will dare venture the assertion, that the precious word of life which these pupils are now committing to their memories, may not by the spirit of grace, be engraven on their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of righteousness in their lives?

The means only, that are committed to impotent, short sighted mortals. The blessings and the end are with Him, who worketh all things according to the counsel of his own will, and who, out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, can perfect praise, to the glory of his holy name.

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Report of the Prudential Committee continued from page 102.

From the Panoplist.

Eighteen months ago, at the place called Brainerd, and consecrated to the Saviour of men, Mr. King-bury was a solitary stranger in the midst of a wide wilderness—(there not being a single individual, within many miles of him, who knew the Lord Jesus,)—and, like his divine master, not having where to lay his head. Now there are commodious buildings of various descriptions—large and fruitful fields—herds and flocks not inconsiderable in numbers—a school consisting of about sixty children and youth, collected from the surrounding forests, comfortably lodged and fed, instructed for the present world and for the world to come, and about twenty of them already able to read well in the Bible;—and a church established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and to which, within six months have been added ten or twelve, who before were strangers and foreigners, having no hope and without God in the world!—The people who were sitting in darkness now see a great light. The land, which for long and dreary ages lay in the shadow of death, is now cheered with exhibitions of heavenly glory, and made vocal with the songs of the redeemed.

Such are riches of divine goodness. "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, Jehovah will hear them, the God of Israel will not forsake them. He will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of vallies; he will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. He will plant in the wilderness the cedar, and the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; and set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine tree, and the box tree together: that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the holy one of Israel hath created it."

The facts now reported have the weight and conclusiveness of a thousand arguments in proof of three important points; viz. that it is not a vain thing to attempt the conversion of the Indians; that they may be brought to the knowledge of Christ before they are advanced in civilization; and the plan of instructing them in English is feasible and eligible.

It is a truth, worthy to be repeated, until it reach the mind and heart of every friend of

God and men in these christian states, that, in proportion to time and means employed, no missions to the heathen, since the Apostolic age, have been more successful, than those to the American Aborigines.

Nor has the success, in manifest conversions to God, and in fruits meet for repentance, been delayed until the plastic hand of civilization had prepared the way. In the days of Elliot, of the Mayhews and of Brainerd, and now in our own day, rude children of nature and of the forest—men and young persons of both sexes have had their understandings enlightened and their hearts opened to receive the gospel, and have become humble and exemplary followers of the Lord Jesus. The facts are as encouraging as they are incontrovertible. They are encouraging, in regard not only to the spiritual interests of the untutored tribes, but also to the melioration of their temporal condition. What so efficacious for subduing the ferocious spirit and restraining the roving inclinations of the savage, as the renovating grace of the gospel? What like this to engage the mind to the noblest objects, and to generate and animate the desire for general improvement? It was by means of the gospel that the nations of Europe were civilized; and by means of the gospel the tribes of the American wilderness be civilized.

The gospel prompts to general education. But tedious would be the process and slow the advances of education in the vernacular languages of those natives, whose minds are altogether unlettered, and their languages unwritten. Most auspiciously it is found, that the obstacles which have been supposed to lie in the way of teaching them in English, were rather imaginary than real. They are willing to be taught, are desirous of being taught, and of having their children taught, in English; and experiments at our establishment have proved, that Indian children, eight years old and upwards, may be taken from the wigwams, and in one year be brought forward to read with a good degree of correctness and facility in the English Bible. In the mean time, they are making proportionate proficiency in speaking and understanding the language, and in various branches of improvement.

The necessity, then, of making translations of the Scriptures, and of elementary books, into the vernacular languages, it is superseded and the labour and time and expense of doing it are saved. If indeed Bibles and other books were already at hand in those languages it would be extremely questionable, whether any considerable use should be made of them. The Indians old or young, would derive no benefit from them, until taught to read. But the young may as well be taught in English books as in Indian; and the old would no sooner learn to read in Indian than English; and when once taught in English, they are brought into a new world, and the treasures of knowledge, and the arts of civilized life, are laid open to them.

Fully persuaded of the soundness and efficacy of the system now brought into operation, and animated by its success in the Cherokee nation, your committee have been earnest in the desire of imparting the benefits of it to other tribes. (To be Continued.)

ORDINATIONS.

On the first of December, the Presbytery of Baltimore ordained to the works of the gospel ministry, the Rev. Joshua T. Russel, editor of the Christian Messenger (Balt.) and at the

same time installed him Pastor of the congregations of Cabin John and Rockville, in Montgomery county, Maryland. The Rev. John Breckenridge presided, the Rev. Dr. James Muir preached, and the Rev. Dr. Stephen B. Balch delivered charges to the Pastor and people.

On the 9th of December, the Presbytery of Philadelphia ordained the Rev. Francis G. Ballentine. The Rev. Dr. Ely presided, the Rev. George W. Janvier preached, from Isaiah lv. 10. and the Rev. Robert B. Bellville delivered the charge.

On the 17th of December, the Classis of Philadelphia ordained the Rev. Brogun Hoff, and installed him Pastor of the first Reformed Dutch Church in the district of Spring Garden. The Rev. Peter Labagh preached, and the Rev. Mr. Studdiford delivered addresses to the Pastor and people.

ORGANIZATION OF A NEW CHURCH.

The Rev. Francis G. Ballentine, on the 13th December, organized the first Presbyterian Church in Moyamensing, a township contiguous to the south western part of the city of Philadelphia. Mr. Ballentine was also instrumental in organizing the Spring Garden church as Pastor of which Mr. Hoff was recently installed.

DEATHS.

Within twenty-six days of each other, died at Abington, near Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. James Dunlap, and his son the Rev. William Dunlap, Pastor of the Presbyterian congregation of that place.

Dr. Duniap was formerly president of Jefferson college, in this state. He reared up many young men for the ministry. He died on the 22d November, in the 75th year of his age, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. The Rev. Dr. Neill preached at his burial from Rev. xiv. 13.—"Blessed are the dead, &c."

On the 10th December, died, the Rev. William Dunlap. His confinement was tedious, his disease distressing—yet he complained not of the dealings of Providence. He declared them to be right. His death he anticipated. He ardently longed for it, yet patiently waited for the Lord. At his burial, the Rev. Dr. Ely delivered a discourse from Dan. xii. 3—"They that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, &c."

ERRATA.

In a part of the impressions last week, under the head of "The Museum" for January 6, 1819, read January 6, 1818.

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